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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

REF ID: A66110

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TO : The Secretary
THROUGH: S/S
FROM : INR - Roger Hillsman

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

~~INTELLIGENCE NOTE: COUNCIL AND GOVERNMENT OF SLOVAKIA SEEK ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT AND~~

Prague-Havana Route Most Valuable and Secure It is increasingly apparent that by far the most valuable and legally secure air link which Moscow has with Cuba consists of Czech Airlines and Air France flights between Prague and Havana.

These flights, made by Bristol Britannia aircraft, run on a scheduled and non-scheduled basis under the provision of air agreements which Cuba and Czechoslovakia, both members of ICAG, have with the UK, Ireland, and Canada. Western aircraft, such as the Bristol Britannia, are essential on this route since the IL-18 and other types of bloc aircraft do not meet ICAO airworthiness standards and are not permitted to use air facilities on this route.

Efforts to Buy More Aircraft and Parts. Both Czech Slovakia and Cuba appear to be accelerating efforts to purchase additional Britannias from Western countries, as well as to obtain reserves of spare parts to keep the aircraft now in service operating at maximum capacity. Top Level Soviet-Czech talks in Moscow this week appeared related to Soviet efforts to facilitate the flow of aid to Castro. If the U.S. is to minimize the air flow of aid to Cuba, Free World denial or at least delay in the licensing of sales of additional Britannias and spare parts to Cuba and Czechoslovakia assumes major importance. Their acquisition by Air Cubana and CSA would strengthen an air channel from the bloc to Cuba which the US has been unable to interdict and which at best can probably only be subject to search as a Cuban aircraft pass through Canadian territory.

DATE:

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CLEAR AIRCRAFT PASS THROUGH GATE 12
 DATE: 6-8
 TIME: 10:00
 FROM: NEW YORK
 TO: LOS ANGELES
 AIRLINE: AMERICAN AIRLINES
 FLIGHT: 100
 PASSENGER: J. EDGAR HOOVER
 SEAT: 1A
 ATTENDING: J. EDGAR HOOVER
 COMMENTS: